

ALAMEDA COUNTY

System Improvement Plan Approval Document

Received October 13, 2004

Program Areas:	Improvement Plan			Anticipated Date of Completion
	*Required		Strategy:	
	Yes	No		
Safety:				
• Recurrence of Maltreatment		X		
• Abuse/Neglect in foster care		X		
• Timely ER Response (process measure)		X		
• Social Worker Visits with child (process measure)	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face-to-face contacts will be entered into CWS/CMS w/i 30 days of contact w/child. Mandate Safe Measures Monitoring by CW Supervisors & Program Managers. Utilize department Contract Waiver workgroup to develop process for contract waiver documentation in CWS/CWS. Get CDSS clarification of proper visit exception. Supervisors will do random, monthly checks of face-to-face contacts. Supervisors will contact a caregiver at random each month to check on CWW contacts/visits and document results. Conduct internal audit for visitation pattern. 	<div>12/04</div> <div>1/1/05</div>
			Data reports, Safe Measures and contact with county will be used to monitor progress.	
Permanency				
• Time to Reunification		X		
• Time to Adoption		X		
• Placement Stability		X		

*The “yes” in the required column represents measures that did not meet the PIP target. The January 2004 and October 2004 county data reports were used.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">Foster Care re-entry	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improve the assessment of placement needs, develop and implement a policy Improve the assessment of placement to mandate ERU & placement workers to meet with each other at the time the child is taken into protective custody.Placement workers make all the decisions regarding conversions of placement from emergency to regular status.Expedite Relative/NREFM approval process by forming a dedicated TDM process to identify relatives.Strategize w/FFA on ways to improve permanency for children.Review current regional MOU and finalize. Develop addendum that reinforces expanded definition of permanency.Obtain additional data regarding multiple placements.Run Business Objects queries to identify CWWs who have pattern of only 1-2 placements routinely.	<div>12/04</div> <div>3/05</div> <div>12/04</div>
			<i>Data reports, Safe Measures and contact with county will be used to monitor progress.</i>	
Well-Being				
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Preserving family relationships				

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Least Restrictive Placements 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent children from having an Emergency Foster Home placement if there is a suitable relative/Non-relative Extended family Member available by creating an emergency assessment procedure. 	1/05
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up a method to conduct thorough relative/NREFM searches and document the results in CWS/CMS. 	3/05
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train and Implement 	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilize Family to Family Recruitment, Training & Support and Community Partnerships workgroups to create community search teams. 	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a comprehensive mental health assessment and stabilization service for the kids entering foster care. Educate caregivers. 	6/05
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a case weighting system in Group Homes. 	1/05
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a financial incentive project for foster parents to accept group home kids. 	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPSDT expansion should be broadened to provide services to provide both licensed foster parents and relatives in step-down arrangements, educate staff, caregivers and mental health providers. 	3/05
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilize new EPSDT services to target the potential step-down population. 	6/05
			<i>Data reports, Safe Measures and contact with county will be used to monitor progress.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICWA Placements 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ILP 				

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Systemic			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statewide Information System 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department is working on implementing new data warehouse systems to allow for better information sharing across departments and agencies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case Review System 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor cases that are not reunified at 12 months for concurrent planning. Provide quarterly reports on reunification numbers of African Am. Children. Implement SDM process for all FR cases. Implement TDM for all FR cases; review placement and service appropriateness; available relatives; barriers to reunification, and permanency. Create workgroup on Cultural Competence/Equity to work with SSA Staff Development to schedule training series, develop an internal PR campaign. Increase the array of culturally appropriate services, develop comprehensive resource guide to existing community services and referral system. Promote the collection of information on potential relative caregivers. Meet with Juvenile Court staff. Restructure the Intake and assessment functions at the front end of the child welfare system. Pilot test a change in ER unit to functions to include detention hearings. Implement CalWorks –Child Welfare Linkages project, using

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			economic assistance and employment support to decrease entries into care, expedite returns home and maintain stability for reunified families.	10/04
			<i>Data reports, Safe Measures and contact with county will be used to monitor progress.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality Assurance System 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workers have been appointed to further develop the quality assurance system for the Department. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service Array 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agency Responsiveness to the Community 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment and Retention 				

Approved on _____

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